



# Press Release

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## Louisiana Rice Yield Exceeding Early Expectation

“Louisiana’s rice crop is expected to yield 6,450 pounds per acre, surpassing the October 1 forecast record by 50 pounds,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “Meanwhile, Louisiana continued to receive rainfall throughout much of the state in October, hampering growers’ ability to harvest their cotton and soybeans, which kept harvest almost three weeks behind normal,” said Crisp.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 30.3 million cwt, up one percent from the previous month and up 12 percent from 2008. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 470,000 acres, up 6,000 acres from last year. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,450 pounds, up 50 pounds from previous month and up 620 pounds from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 218 million cwt, down one percent from the October forecast but up seven percent from last year.

**Soybean** production is expected to total 35.9 million bushels in Louisiana, unchanged from the October estimate but up 14 percent from 2008. Soybean acreage for harvest is estimated at 970,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 37 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous month but up four bushels from last year. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at a record high 3.3 billion bushels, up two percent from the October forecast and up 12 percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 360,000 bales, down five percent from the October estimate but up 28 percent from last year. Acreage of cotton expected for harvest is forecast at 225,000 acres, down 9,000 acres from a year ago. The expected yield per acre, at 768 pounds, is down 43 pounds from the October forecast but up 192 pounds from 2008. **Upland cotton** production for the U.S. is forecast at 12.1 million bales, down four percent from last month and down two percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 80.6 million bushels, down two percent from the previous month’s estimate but up ten percent from last year. An estimated 620,000 acres will be harvested for grain, up 110,000 acres from last year. Yield per acre, at 130 bushels, is down two bushels from last month and down 14 bushels from last year’s yield. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 12.9 billion bushels, down one percent from last month but seven percent higher than 2008.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 12.0 million net tons, up seven percent from the previous month and up five percent from last year. Harvested acreage for sugar and seed is forecast at 400,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 30 net tons per acre, up two net tons from the October estimate and up 1.7 net tons from last year. U.S. production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed in 2009 is forecast at 29.2 million net tons, up two percent from the October forecast and up six percent from 2008.

**Sorghum** production is estimated at 5.4 million bushels in the state, up four percent from the October estimate but down 44 percent from 2008. Sorghum harvested acreage is forecast at 67,000 acres, down 43,000 acres from last year. If realized, harvested acreage will be the lowest since 1980 when the state harvested 14,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 80 bushels per acre, up three bushels from last month but down seven bushels from a year ago. U.S. production of **sorghum** is forecast at 364 million bushels, up slightly from the October forecast but down 23 percent from last year.